

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor
Kenneth R. Bounds, Superintendent



Seattle Parks and Recreation Center City

New and renovated parks, acquisitions, community centers and trails

Center City Seattle is becoming a place where people choose to live, work and play. Parks, community centers, and pedestrian corridors are key elements in creating unique, but connected, neighborhoods.

New and renovated parks

Cascade Playground – The Cascade Playground in the South Lake Union Neighborhood underwent a complete restoration with the installation of new play areas, natural landscaping and the demolition of a large retaining wall. Work was completed in June 2005. The project was funded by the Pro Parks Levy and private donors PEMCO, Vulcan and Harbor Properties.
www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/cascadeplayground.htm



Cascade Playground

South Lake Union Park – With funding from the Pro Parks Levy and private donations through the Seattle Parks Foundation from organizations such as Vulcan, Inc., Parks will create a totally re-furbished park with a focus on maritime heritage, featuring a model boat pond, pathways, boardwalk, public art, boat launch and access to the water. Completion is expected in 2009.
www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/SouthLakeUnionPark.htm

Seattle Art Museum's Olympic Sculpture Park – The Seattle Art Museum is transforming 8.5 acres near the waterfront south of Myrtle Edwards Park into a large open space for art that will be open to the public. The sculpture park will provide a seamless connection from Elliott Avenue to Myrtle Edwards Park and the waterfront. Work is underway. Completion and opening are anticipated in June 2006.
www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/OlympicSculpturePark.htm

Queen Anne Park at Uptown – In 2004, Seattle Parks acquired the .28 acre property at the northeast corner of Queen Anne Ave. N. and Roy St. for a new park with funding from the Pro Parks Levy and King County Conservation Futures Tax funds. This former gas station in Lower Queen Anne will be transformed into an elegant, urban park. Design is under way, and will continue through 2006. Pro Parks Levy funding will augment a substantial fundraising effort by the community. Completion is expected in 2007.
www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/queenannepark.htm
www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/queenanneparkdev.htm

New and renovated parks continued

I-5 Colonnade — This project is developing an area under I-5 into open space that will include a dog off-leash area, stairs to make pedestrian connections between the Capitol Hill and Eastlake neighborhoods, a mountain bike course, public art and other amenities. Work began earlier this year. Completion is expected in December 2005. The project is funded by the Pro Parks Levy and the state of Washington.

www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/i-5openspace.htm



I-5 Colonnade at Blaine Street

Freeway Park – Parks is working to revitalize the park, including hiring the park's original designer to create a landscape renovation plan for the park. The plan includes landscaping and improving the fountains, entrances and signs in the park. In addition, Parks has increased the variety and number of activities and events in the park. This is part of the Mayor's Downtown Parks Initiative.

Plymouth Pillars Park – This Pro Parks Levy funded project is under construction and on schedule for completion by the end of the year. It includes a dog off-leash area, pedestrian walkway, stairs and landscaping. www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/borenpikepinepark.htm

Pier 62-63/Central Waterfront – Parks has closed the piers to concerts and other large special events because of the need to replace the underlying support structure. The options are to rebuild the piers at the existing site; rebuild it closer to the Aquarium; or remove the piers all together. Parks is working closely with other City departments to determine the best option. www.seattle.gov/parks/maintenance/Pier62-63/default.htm

Aquarium/Pier 59 – Work began in June 2005, to remodel Pier 59 and the Aquarium. Seattle Parks and Recreation is restoring structural integrity to the majority of the facility by installing new driven and posted piles and new concrete aprons. As part of this project, the east end of the building has been carefully removed and the building's façade has also been removed and is stored at Pier 62/63, until 2006 when it will be restored and replaced. The Seattle Aquarium Society is working with the City on remodeling the interior spaces for exhibits, events and visitor services. www.seattle.gov/parks/maintenance/Pier59/default.htm

City Hall Park – This project implements improvements associated with transforming City Hall Park, located just south of the King County Courthouse, into an attractive gateway to downtown Seattle. The scope of work is currently being determined through a community process, which considers potential impacts on nearby parks: Prefontaine Fountain Plaza, Fortson Square, Occidental Square and Pioneer Square Park. This project is part of the Mayor's initiative to improve downtown parks. www.seattle.gov/parks/maintenance/CityHallPark.htm

Occidental Square – Transformation of Occidental Square focuses on creating an active, vibrant neighborhood space which is so enjoyable that it is sought out by the people who live in, work and visit Pioneer Square. Parks anticipates that work will begin in 2006. The project is funded by the Pro Parks Levy. Parks has also added many new events and activities for the public. This project is part of the Mayor's Downtown Parks Initiative. www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/pioneersquare.htm

New and renovated parks continued

Pioneer Square Park – Renovation of the park was completed in 2004. Improvements included replacing trip-hazard pavers with new ones, repairing and relocating benches, new landscaping to include native plants, restoration of the Chief Sealth fountain, and installation of electrical outlets for holiday decorations. The project was funded by the Pro Parks Levy. www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/pioneersquare.htm

Belltown Cottage Park – Parks completed renovations at the Belltown P-Patch and Cottages in 2003. Renovations included restoration of the cottages to their original condition, landscaping and ADA accessibility. Project funding included the Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund. www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/belltownCottages.htm

Cal Anderson Park and Bobby Morris Playfield – Opened to the public in September, this newly completed park in Capitol Hill features new pathways, a play area, an artist-designed water feature, a new shelterhouse and comfort station, basketball courts and a resurfaced athletic field for year-round use. The park renovation followed Seattle Public Utility's lidding of Lincoln Reservoir, which added four new acres to the park. Most of the project was funded by the Pro Parks Levy. www.seattle.gov/parks/maintenance/BobbyMorris.htm
www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/andersonReservoirCover.htm



Cal Anderson Park

Park acquisitions

Parks acquisition staff are interested in partnering with developers on the following projects:

Denny Triangle – The Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund and the King County Conservation Futures Tax provide funds to acquire land for a new park in the Denny Triangle neighborhood. Seattle Parks is considering potential sites for park acquisition, in keeping with the North Downtown Park Plan www.seattle.gov/parks/Publications/NDPP.htm or www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/dennytriangle.htm

First Hill – The Pro Parks Levy includes funds for a new park in the First Hill neighborhood. Seattle Parks has drafted a First Hill Park Plan and is considering potential sites for park acquisition. The draft plan will be reviewed at the 10/11/05 meeting of the First Hill Improvement Association. www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/FirstHillAcquisition.htm

International District/Pioneer Square – The Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund and the King County Conservation Futures Tax provide funds to acquire land for a new park in the International District/Pioneer Square. Seattle Parks is considering potential sites for park acquisition. www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/pioneersquareID.htm

West Capitol Hill – The Pro Parks Levy and the King County Conservation Futures Tax provide funds to acquire land for a new park on the western slope of Capitol Hill. Seattle Parks is considering potential sites for park acquisition. www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/bellevueacquisition.htm

Community centers

International District/Chinatown Community Center – Opened Sept. 29, 2004, in collaboration with the Seattle International District Preservation and Development Authority, the new community center is part of Phase II of the Village Square project, which also includes a library, housing, and retail space. It is available for community meetings and as a rental facility for special events. Community Center funding included the Pro Parks Levy, and the 2005 cycle of the Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund includes funding to add an additional room. Programming at IDCC includes ping pong, badminton, volleyball, martial arts, children's art, and cultural events. The facility serves the city's lowest-income neighborhood of about 3,000 residents, of which 65% are seniors. www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/InternationalDistrict-Chinatown.htm

Yesler Community Center — This new 20,000-square-foot facility includes activity rooms, a multi-purpose room and kitchen, a full size dividable gym, two family changing rooms, public restrooms, a reception area and lounge, and computer lab. The building, which opened in February 2005, was designed on one level with visibility from the entry desk to all key areas and entries for security. It is achieving energy efficiency and a healthier indoor environmental quality through the use of daylighting, intelligent lighting systems and natural ventilation. www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/current/Yesler_Community_Center.htm



Yesler Community Center

Belltown Community Center – Parks is working with the community and the Low Income Housing Institute to locate and build a 5,000- to 7,000-square-foot community center in Belltown. The community will meet again in late 2005 to review locations. www.cityofseattle.net/parks/centers/current/Belltown_Neighborhood_Center.htm

Cascade People's Center – This building at Cascade Park houses a family support center, ESL classes and community events. Funding sources to renovate the building include the Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund, Neighborhood Matching Fund, and corporate donors. www.cascadepeoplescenter.org/index.htm

Trails and pedestrian connections



Blaine Street Stairs on Capitol Hill

Capitol Hill to Lake Union Trail – Connections through St. Mark's Greenbelt and the I-5 Colonnade are providing new opportunities to link Capitol Hill to Lake Union for pedestrians and cyclists.

Thomas St. Overpass - The Pro Parks Levy includes funds for a pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks, from Elliott Avenue West to Myrtle Edwards Park, at West Thomas Street. This connection was proposed in both the Belltown and Queen Anne neighborhood plans.

Belltown/Lower Queen Anne Waterfront Connection – The Pro Parks Levy funds pedestrian crossing of Alaskan Way and the railroad tracks in the Olympic Sculpture Park.

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail – The Pro Parks Levy provides funds for the final section of the Mountains to Sound Greenway, extending the trail from I-90 to the Seattle waterfront.